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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO
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John G. Shudy, Jr.			CREPEAU, JONATHAN	
Honeywell International Inc. 101 Columbia Road - Patent Department Morristown, NJ 07962-2245		<u> </u>	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1746	

DATE MAILED: 10/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)		
Office Action Summer	09/941,247	WOOD, ROLAND A.		
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit		
	Jonathan S. Crepeau	1746		
The MAILING DATE of this communication appeariod for Reply	ears on the cover sheet with the c	orrespondence address		
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply of NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period with Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	6(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tim within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days ill apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from	nely filed s will be considered timely. the mailing date of this communication.		
Status				
 1) ⊠ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 Oct 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☑ This solution is in condition for allowant closed in accordance with the practice under Extended 	action is non-final. ce except for formal matters, pro			
Disposition of Claims				
4)	n from consideration. ad 37-39 is/are rejected.	,		
Application Papers				
9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) access applicant may not request that any objection to the description Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction and the correction is objected to by the Examiner.	pted or b) objected to by the E rawing(s) be held in abeyance. See on is required if the drawing(s) is obje	37 CFR 1.85(a). ected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119				
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.				
Attachment(s) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date	4) Interview Summary (Paper No(s)/Mail Dat 5) Notice of Informal Pa 6) Other:	e		

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This Office action addresses claims 1-6, 9-15, 17-26 and 28-37 and newly added claims 38 and 39. Claim 36 is allowed, and claims 5, 21, and 33 are objected to as containing allowable subject matter. New grounds of rejection are applied to claims 1-4, 6, 9-15, 17-20, 22-26, 28-32, 34, 35, and 37-39; however these grounds were not necessitated by amendment. Accordingly, prosecution is reopened and this action is non-final.

Claim Objections

2. The status identifier of claim 36 is incorrect. It should read "(Previously Presented)".

Correction is required. In claims 10 and 34, "at least one device" should be changed to "at least one valve" to properly limit the parent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

- 3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
 - The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.
- 4. Claims 15, 17, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the

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relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 15 recites a pump, claim 31 recites a pumping step, and claim 17 recites porous plugs. However, these recitations appear to be mutually exclusive with the recitation of a valve in claims 1 and 22. The specification indicates that a pump represents an alternative embodiment to a valve and that porous plugs also represent an alternative embodiment to a valve (paragraphs [0019] and [0020]). There is no indication that Applicants had possession of a system that simultaneously contained two or more elements selected from a valve, a pump, and a porous plug located between the water vapor generator and the fuel cell. As such, claims 15, 17, and 31 are considered to contain new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. Claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, 15, 18, 22-26, 28-31, 34, 35, and 37-39 are rejected under 35
U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kerrebrock et al (U.S. Patent 5,372,617). The reference teaches an electrical power generator comprising and a fuel cell attached to a hydrogen gas generator (22) via a conduit containing a valve (72) (see Fig. 4). The hydrogen gas generator contains a substantially non-fluid metal hydride material in a palletized or granular form (see col. 5, line 30). The material may comprise calcium hydride (see col. 5, line 34) or sodium borohydride (see col. 2, line 13). The system further comprises a water reservoir (64) that supplies water to the hydrogen generator via a pump (66) and a valve (68). In column 7, line 42, the reference teaches that a heater may be provided in the water feed line to generate steam for injection into the hydrogen generator. This is considered to be anticipatory of the claimed

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"single chamber" water vapor generator. A return line from the fuel cell leads to the water

reservoir (see Fig. 4).

Thus, the instant claims are anticipated.

6. Claims 35, 37, 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Werth (U.S. Patent 6,093,501). The reference teaches an electrical power generator comprising

and a fuel cell attached to a hydrogen gas generator (15) via a conduit containing a pump (19)

(see Fig. 2). The hydrogen gas generator contains a substantially non-fluid iron material. The

system further comprises a water reservoir (18) that supplies water to the hydrogen generator via

a pump (16). A heater (17) is provided in the water feed line to generate steam for the hydrogen

generator (see col. 3, line 29). This is considered to be anticipatory of the claimed "single

chamber" water vapor generator. A return line from the fuel cell leads to the water reservoir (see

Fig. 2).

Thus, the instant claims are anticipated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. Claims 13 and 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Kerrebrock et al. in view of Suda (U.S. Patent 6,358,488).

Kerrebrock et al. is applied to claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, 15, 18, 22-26, 28-31, 34, 35, and 37-39

for the reasons stated above. However, the reference does not expressly teach that the hydrogen

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generator comprises a catalyst such as cobalt, nickel, or ruthenium, as recited in claims 13 and 14.

Suda is directed to a method of generation of hydrogen gas involving metal hydrides and water. In column 4, line 24, the reference teaches that cobalt and nickel can be used as catalysts in the reaction.

Therefore, the invention as a whole would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because the artisan would be motivated by the disclosure of Suda to use cobalt or nickel as a catalyst in the hydrogen generator of Kerrebrock et al. In column 4, line 17, Suda teaches that "it is essential in the inventive method that the reaction is promoted catalytically by a catalyst material brought into contact with the reaction medium." Accordingly, the artisan would be motivated to use cobalt or nickel as a catalyst in the hydrogen generator of Kerrebrock et al.

8. Claims 19, 20, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerrebrock et al. in view of Lehmeier et al (U.S. Patent 5,942,344).

Kerrebrock et al. is applied to claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, 15, 18, 22-26, 28-31, 34, 35, and 37-39 for the reasons stated above. However, the reference does not expressly teach that the fuel cell is heated with a heater, as recited in claims 20 and 32, or that the fuel cell is at least partially surrounded by insulation, as recited in claim 19.

Lehmeier et al. is directed to a high-temperature fuel cell surrounded by a heating element (12, 14) and insulation (9) (see the Figure; col. 3, line 49).

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Therefore, the invention as a whole would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because the artisan would be motivated to use the fuel cell of Lehmeier et al. and its associated heater and insulation in the system of Kerrebrock et al. In column 2, line 14, Lehmeier et al. teaches the following:

It is accordingly an object of the invention to provide a high-temperature fuel cell system and a method for its operation, which overcome the hereinafore-mentioned disadvantages of the heretofore-known devices and methods of this general type and in which the high-temperature fuel cells are not polluted or damaged during heating.

Accordingly, the artisan would be motivated to use the fuel cell and associated components of Lehmeier et al. in the system of Kerrebrock et al. et al in hopes not polluting or damaging the fuel cell during heating.

Allowable Subject Matter

- 9. Claim 36 is allowed.
- 10. Claims 5, 21, and 33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
- 11. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The reasons for allowance of claims 5 and 36 were previously given and remain applicable.

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Regarding claims 21 and 33, Kerrebrock et al. is the closest prior art. However, the reference does not teach or fairly suggest a water vapor generator having a tensile membrane therein, as claimed.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Crepeau whose telephone number is (571) 272-1299. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr, can be reached at (571) 272-1414. The phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 272-1700. Documents may be faxed to the central fax server at (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Yonathan Crepeau Primary Examiner Art Unit 1746 October 26, 2004